# ADA Advisory Council Meeting Minutes August 1, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 1:15 p.m. by the Chair person. The meeting was held in the first floor conference room of the Hood Building, 200 South President Street. Attending today's meeting were: Ms. Lee Cole (ADA Council Chairperson/Ward 2); Dr. Scott Crawford (Vice Chair/Ward 7); Rev. Sam Gleese (City ADA Compliance Coordinator); Mr. Theo Letman (JATRAN's General Manager (PTM)), Mr. Dewayne Cheatham (JATRAN's Director of Operations); Ms. Karen Robinson (JATRAN Handilift Dispatcher); Corporal C. N. Banks (Jackson Police Department); Deputy Chief Johnnie L. McDonald (Jackson Fire Department ADA Liaison); Mr. Jason Bunch; Mr. Fred Myers; Attorney Kay Hardage (DRMS); Mr. Carl Allen (Deputy Director, Planning and Development); Ms. Evelyn Pittman (City of Jackson Transit Services); Ms. Felicia Young (Department of Administration/Treasurer ADA Liaison).

#### Call to Order

- I. Chairwoman Lee Cole called the meeting to order at 1:15 pm.
- II. Members and guests introduced themselves.

# **Approval of Minutes**

III. Scott Crawford read the minutes from the July 18<sup>th</sup> council meeting aloud. There were no changes and they were unanimously adopted as read.

### **Updates**

- IV. Deputy Fire Chief Johnnie McDonald said that there were still some smoke detectors available and encouraged members to have interested people call the Fire Department to pick one up. They are free of charge.
- V. Chairperson Cole asked Mr. Letman of JATRAN if City Engineer Robert Lee had contacted them about rerouting the buses along Capitol Street during the upcoming construction to make that road two-way. Mr. Letman indicated that they have a meeting arranged for this Friday (August 3<sup>rd</sup>).
- VI. Scott Crawford summarized the alteration of Capitol Street from one-way to two-way. Engineers Mark Beyea of Neel-Schaffer and Robert Lee of the City's Public Works Department consulted with ADA Coordinator Gleese, Dr. Christy Dunaway (LIFE of MS), Chairperson Cole, and Crawford about design considerations and access during the more than year-long project. The use of roundabouts raised some concern for pedestrian safety. However, the engineers agreed to place high-profile "Yield to Pedestrians" signage in the medians to help mitigate that danger.

## **Old Business**

VII. ADA Transition Plan – ADA Coordinator Gleese spent a few minutes talking about the need to review the City's Transition Plan. Crawford added that what he will look for are TIMELY upgrades to citizen requests. As an example, Crawford cited improper curb ramps at JATRAN's Union Station Depot. They were built incorrectly (lacking flares), and therefore pose an obstacle to wheelchair users and are a tripping hazard for ambulatory individuals.

Crawford reported this problem FIVE years ago and they have yet to be refitted. The emphasis should be on efficient correction of problems submitted by individuals in the disability community.

VIII. Rev. Gleese reported that the City signed an ADA Sensitivity Training contract with Living Independence for Everyone (LIFE) of Mississippi. The training started July 6<sup>th</sup> with the Police Academy recruits.

#### **New Business**

- IX. Rev. Gleese reviewed the ADA Advisory Council membership: Ms. Lee Cole (Ward 2), Ms. Lynn Hill(Ward 1), Mrs. Jacqueline Washington (Ward 5), Ms. Karen Robinson (Ward 6), Dr. Scott Crawford (Ward 7), Dr. Christy Dunaway (at large/LIFE), Mr. Len Jefferson (at large/MPA), Mr. Antonio V. Wright (at large/MACE), Ms. Jan Hawthorne (at large/MSB): organizational members are Mr. Roy Granger (Miss. Industries for the Blind; Ms. Lee Jenkins, Miss. Brain Injury Assoc.; Mr. Eddie Givings, Miss. Dept. of Rehabilitation Services; Ms. Shellie Ziegler, Miss. Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. He asked whether members present were willing to continue in that capacity. Chairperson Cole, Karen Robinson, Scott Crawford, and Jason Bunch, all said that they would continue to serve. Gleese added that he will get with the members not present to find out if they are also willing to continue serving on the Council. There are two wards (3 and 4) missing representation in this forum. Chairwoman Cole stated that persons selected should be able to identify concerns and issues within those communities.
- X. Dr. Crawford made mention of other areas of disability rights that deserve attention, namely, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Disability Rights Mississippi recently filed a lawsuit against the State Board of Education for failure to enforce the provisions of IDEA on Jackson Public Schools. Crawford noted the importance of INCLUSIVE classrooms, adding that America's children have a RIGHT to a free and appropriate education in the most INTEGRATED setting appropriate to their needs.
- XI. Rev. Gleese updated the Council on the Red Cross' evaluation of the City's Community Centers as evacuation centers. Specifically, they were to determine the shelter's capacity to accept and care for people with various disabilities. Gleese said that the City is still awaiting the results of this review.

#### **Announcements**

- XII. The "Go Direct" Conference will be held at the Salvation Army on August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2012. Its intention is to educate citizens about how to transition to electronic payment of government benefits. This will, of course, mean assisting individuals in opening and using bank accounts, if they do not already have one.
- XIII. The City of Jackson will host a Job for Jacksonians Job Fair on September 26, 2012, at the Jackson Medical Mall.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the ADA Advisory Council will be held on September 5<sup>th</sup>, 1:00pm at the Hood Building, first floor conference room.

The Council adjourned at 2:15pm.

These minutes were submitted by Dr. Scott M. Crawford and approved at the September meeting.